REPORTS

OF THE

SELECTMEN, TREASURER,

AND

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

OF THE

TOWN OF MERRIMACK,

FOR THE

YEAR ENDING MARCH 1,

1870.

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SELECTMEN'S REPORT.

Whole amount of assessments and receipts chargeable to the Treasury:

State, county, town, school, highway and school house tax	$8,299 42
Dog tax	69 00
Received on land and mill accidentally omitted in the Assessment,	20 65
Received of S. C. Nesmith, interest on tax list, 1868	56 37
B. H. Harris, damage, dogs killing sheep	30 00
	$8,475 44

TOWN EXPENSES.

Orders drawn on the Treasurer, old bills, 1868.

E. D. Franklin, breaking roads	$21 00
I C. Shedd, breaking roads	3 30
D. H. Boynton, do. do.	3 63
Hiram Hunt, do. do.	10 89
L. W. Reed, do. do.	5 27
J. L. Spalding, labor on road	12 88
Thomas McKiney, watering trough	3 00
Mr. Whittimore, Printing Reports	30 00
Joseph Hill over assessment	1 50
David Jones, double assessment	1 85
C. M. Parker, Town-house committee, advertising	1 50
W. T. Parker, services as committee to pay money on claims against the town	3 00
J. L. Spalding, services as committee, to repay money to those who procured substitutes	5 00
Josiah Severns snowing bridge, 1867, '68, and '69	7 50
	$110 32

BRIDGES AND HIGHWAYS.

John McGilvray, Highway Surveyor	$13 50
Smith E Fields, " "	13 55
Reuben Burnes, " "	26 00
Hugh McKean, " "	19 65
T. J. Foster, " "	32 74
J. L. Foster, " "	20 96
Z. G Perry, " "	18 75
Walter Reed, " "	10 00
John H Coburn, " "	18 75
H. B. Harris, " "	10 50
Rufus Blood, " "	15 90
A. S Longa, " "	11 55
A. Mears, " "	23 12
R. Melvin, " "	35 25
Eugene Hutchinson "	21 30
Sumner Morgan "	4 50
Dennis Sullivan, " "	10 50
C. W. H Patterson, "	5 50
C. W. H. Patterson building over road near Mr. Hodgeman's mill	208 00
W. McKean, highway surveyor	19 80
W McKean, building over bridge near his house	57 00
J W. Longa, Labor on Turkey Hill Bridge	7 50
Isaac Fitts, Labor. Gulf road and Robbin bridge	23 50
H. W. Green labor Gulf road	12 75
W Eayrs, labor Gulf road	6 82
R. H. Pratt, cutting bushes	6 75
E. K. Woods, plank for bridges	38 56
Anson S Longa, breaking Roads	7 80
George Drew highway surveyor	10 00
John L. Bowers, highway surveyor	5 00
T. J. Foster, highway surveyor	2 60
E. P. Parker, work on bridge	1 00
	$719 05

ASSISTANCE TO THE POOR.

One year's board of Anson Schellinger	$130 00
Shirting and flannel for Schillinger	4 28
Medical attendance on Schillinger	2 50
Joseph Shedd	38 28
	$175 06

INCIDENTAL EXPENSES,

S. C. Nesmith, abatement on tax list, 1868	$26 19
Abatement on Indian Head Bank stock	32 85
H. T. Ingalls, abatement 1868 and 1869	5 42
Newton McCluer over assessment	5 16

Wm. H. Fisk, Books and printed orders	19 00
Moore & Langley, printing reward bills	2 50
Geo Y. Sawyer, counsel and costs in Harris and Eayrs' case	12 46
J. H. Brooks, road scraper and freight	47 56
Wm. J. Rockwood, shingling hearse house and Souhegan bridge, &c	20 44
J. L. Reed, damage sheep killed by dogs	45 50
Jeremiah Woods, sheep killed by dogs,	8 00
Daniel Robbins, interest money	62 01
J. L. Spalding, No. 4 school house tax	350 00
Harrison Green, No. 2 school house tax	60 00
Mr. Barry, injury to self and damage to sleigh	15 00
John Wheeler, expenses to Lowell and Lyndeboro	6 00
S. C. Anderson, stationery and Post age	3 00
Thomas M. King, watering trough	3 00
Henry J. Wilson, abatement on tax list	49 88
M. B. McConihie, use of hall to revise check-list	1 00
	$774 97

TOWN OFFICERS.

George Drew, services as town clerk	$20 00
S. C. Anderson, do treasurer	25 00
Rev. C. L. Hubbard, services as school committee	50 00
John Wheeler, services as selectman and overseer of poor	65 00
Thomas Parker, do do do	46 00
Henry J. Wilson, do do do	30 00
Henry J. Wilson, services as collector	75 00
M. P. Nichols, do auditor	1 50
F. A. Gordon, do do	1 50
	$314 00

RECAPITULATION.

Old bills	$110 32
Bridges and highways	719 05
Poor	175 06
Incidental expense	774 97
Town officers	314 00
Whole am't orders drawn on town treasurer, year ending March 1, 1870	$2,093 40

We have examined the foregoing account of the Selectmen of the town of Merrimack for the current year ending March 1, 1870, and find it to be correct.

MATTHEW P. NICHOLS, } Auditors.
FRANCIS A. GORDON, }

Merrimack, March 1, 1870.

REMARKS.

The foregoing report gives a correct statement of the transactions of the Selectmen for the year ending March 1, 1870. The amount of $208 has been expended in repairing the road near Mr. Hodgeman's mill. What portion of this the town is liable for can be settled by referees. We did not have time to attend to it.

Uupon recommendation of J. F. Brook's road-scraper, we tho't it best to purchase one; and upon trial it fully meets it recommendations, and if it could pass over our roads, they would be in much better condition.

Due from tax on bank shares,	1867,	$110 31
" " "	1868,	165 80

As reported last year, it proves to be a credit which cannot be collected, so our debt one year ago was $276 11 more than reported to be.

Respectfully submitted for the consideration of the town.

JOHN WHEELER,
THOMAS PARKER,
HENRY J. WILSON, } Selectmen of Merrimack.

TREASURER'S REPORT.

To the legal voters of Merrimack. Gentlemen:

The following is a true statement of all the cash receipts and disbursements of money belonging to said town by your Treasurer for the current year ending March 1, 1870.

RECEIPTS.

Cash received as follows:

A. A. Junkins, former Treasurer,	$ 63 06
S. C. Nesmith, Collector, 1868,	1,342 21
A. McWilkins, collections from town farm auction,	72 23
Isaac Fitts, " " "	1 20
F. F. Walker, " " "	42 20
Selectmen. " " "	15 49
A. McWilkins, for old plank sold C. H. Nutt,	1 00
Selectmen, interest on taxes due and collected by S. C. Nesmith, collector, 1868,	56 37
Selectmen, for tax on land and mill, accidentally omitted in the assessment,	20 65
Selectmen, collected of H. B. Harris for damage done by dogs, killing sheep,	30 00
Selectmen, as per note on demand, $500, dated Feb. 15, 1870, to John Wheeler,	500 00
State Treasurer, savings bank tax,	883 89
" railroad tax,	1,374 08
" literary fund,	63 20
" assigned U. S. bounty,	216 00
James B. Greeley, endorsed on note,	150 00
Henry J. Wilson, collector on his list,	5,798 91
	$10,630 49

DISBURSEMENTS.

Cash paid

Old outstanding Treasury orders,	$ 517 21
Treasury orders for current year ending March 1, 1870,	1,691 70
Martha Robbins, town note, $400, dated Jan. 1, 1868, and interest of same to April 15, 1869,	431 42
M. V. B. Green, binding one volume town reports,	75
Merrimack River Savings Bank, int. and part principal endorsed on town note,	1,499 40
Joseph Haggett, town notes dated Jan. 6, 1865, $600, and Feb. 20, 1865, $480, and interest due on said notes, $131 70,	1,211 70
State tax, $2,532 00; County tax, $709 87,	3,241 87
Agents of the several school districts, in part,	1,035 00
Stolen from Treasurer's safe, Aug. 5, 1869,	667 49
Balance of cash in treasury, March 1, 1870,	333 95
	$10,630 49

The following is a correct statement of the financial condition of the town, March 1, 1870, as made up by your Treasurer, according to the best of his knowledge and belief.

ASSETS.

Cash balance in the treasury March 1, 1870,	$ 333 95
Due from collector, H. J. Wilson, his list assessments,	2,569 51
Due from J. B. Greeley, balance of note & interest of same to March 1, 1870,	351 55
Balance against the town March 1, 1870,	14,006 70
	$17,261 71

LIABILITIES.

Amount of notes due from the town and int. of the same to March 1, 1870,	$16,534 21
Outstanding orders for the current year,	401 70
Allowance claimed by Henry J. Wilson, collector, for town money deposited in treasurer's safe, and stolen therefrom Aug. 5, 1869,	200 00
One outstanding order dated October, 1868,	5 80
Balance of school money due District No. 4,	120 00
	$17,261 71

Liabilities,	$17,261 71
Assets	3,255 01
	$14,006 70

Outstanding Notes against the town and interest of same,

March 1, 1870.

Date of Note.	To whom payable.	Principal.			Amount due.
1864, Sept. 11.	John L. Robbins.	$500 00	Bal. of int.	$ 77 71	$ 577 71
1865, Mar. 18.	Eliza Wilson,	683 22	Balance due,		634 20
1865. Jun. 15.	Daniel Robbins.	501 75	Bal. of int.	21 32	523 07
1865. Nov. 17.	Lydia A. Rogers.	300 00	Int. due.	84 09	384 09
1866. Apr. 9.	Chas. E. Grater.	600 00	"	152 84	752 84
1866. Nov. 9.	George Bozen.	1,000 00	"	213 05	1,213 05
1867. Mar. 11.	M. R. Savings Bank	6,000 00	Balance due,		1,503 50
1867. Mar. 26.	" "	12,000 00	"		10,444 50
1870. Feb. 15.	John Wheeler.	500 00	Int. due,	1 25	501 25
					$16,534 21

Amount of assessments, $8,368 42

We have examined the foregoing account of the Treasurer of the town of Merrimack for the current year ending March 1, 1870, and find it correctly cast and properly vouched for.

MATTHEW P. NICHOLS, }
FRANCIS A. GORDON, } Auditors.

Merrimack, March 1, 1870.

Respectfully submitted, S. C. ANDERSON,
Town Treasurer.

SCHOOL REPORT.

The following particulars concerning the schools in the several districts, will inform you of their condition.

DISTRICT NO. I.

HUGH McKEAN, Agent. MISS SARAH E. LAWRENCE, Teacher.

Though this district has few scholars, and but a brief period of instruction, its school was one of the best in town. The instruction was thorough, and the pupils made the most of their advantages. Their scholarly zeal was highly commendable. The classes in Geography and United States History, deserve special praise.

DISTRICT NO. II.

HARRISON F. GREENE, Agent. MISS ABBIE F. PATTEN, Teacher.

The closing examinations of both the terms showed that teacher and pupils had been faithful in their work. The class in grammar displayed a creditable knowledge of the subject. The classes in arithmetic were also good. I consider the classes in reading the best in town.

DISTRICT NO. III.

THOMAS A. LANE, AGENT. MISS L. ANNA WILKINS, Teacher.

The order maintained in the school was good. The attendance was also good; seven in the summer and ten in the fall terms were not absent nor tardy.

The standard of scholarship is not high, but most of the classes recited well. These statements refer to the first two terms. The winter term at the time of making this report, is in session. I judge that it will be attended with as good results as were manifest in the others.

DISTRICT NO. IV.

Hosea B. Spalding and Wm. T. Parker, Agents. Miss Emogene Thomas and Miss Addie E. Shedd, Teachers.

The summer term of this school was, for reasons not fully known to me, not a prosperous one. At its close the number of scholars was considerably diminished. Those present, however appeared to good advantage. The classes in arithmetic, especially that in mental arithmetic, evinced good progress, and a class in spelling was above the average of such classes.

The winter term is now in session. The scholars appear to be interested in their studies, and doubtless the result of their labor will be satisfactory.

During the eight weeks reported, ten scholars were not absent one half-day.

The classes in spelling were the best in town.

The district during the past year has erected a commodious and elegant school house, and thus furnished an example worthy of imitation to the neighboring districts.

DISTRICT NO. V.

George F. Spalding, Agent. Miss Mary A. French, Teacher.

The scholars in this district are with one exception quite young. They have done as well as could be expected.

DISTRICT No. VI.

Albert A. Junkins, Agent. Miss M. A. Cloyd, Teacher,

The standard of scholarship is higher in this school than in any other. In both the examinations a marked improvement was apparent. The recitations of the classes in geography and arithmetic are worthy of special mention.

DISTRICT NO. VII.

Joseph Shedd, Agent. Miss Hortensia McMillan, Teacher.

The school in this district acquitted itself creditably at the close of the summer term. The attendance was poor.

The attendance during the winter term was worse than in the previous one. On my last visit to the school, though many scholars were absent, it passed a fair examination.

DISTRICT NO. VIII.

S. R. Barron, Agent. Miss May Emerson and Miss Abbie F. Dascomb, Teachers.

The instruction during both terms of this school was good, and the scholars apparently profited by it. The examinations were creditable to teachers and pupils.

DISTRICT NO. IX.

HENRY L. MCKEAN, Agent. MISS LOUISE M. JONES, Teacher.

The scholars in this district are quite young but making due allowance for this fact, are in attainments on an equality with the rest of our scholars. Its defective classification was a great hindrance to the progress of the school, and it was not easy for the teacher to obviate this difficulty.

Three young Misses showed that they had made the study of geography a business. The attendance was poor. The parents should keep their children in school if they desire any satisfactory results from the teacher's labors. Perhaps less effort would be necessary to secure regular attendance, if the school-house was more inviting.

DISTRICT NO. X.

——— ——— Agent. MISS ANNIE G. KENDALL, Teacher.

I was not notified that this school was in session till within a few days of its close. At the time of my visit, the scholars appeared to have profited by the instruction which they had received. I was able to make but one visit to the school in the winter term. As the same teacher had charge of both terms, the advancement of the pupils was doubtless satisfactory.

DISTRICT NO. XI.

J. L. BOWERS, Agent. MISS LIZZIE D. BOWERS, Teacher.

My only visit to this school was at the commencement of the summer term. It then appeared to be in a prosperous condition.

In addition to the nine weeks of school reported, there was also a private school twenty-six weeks in length.

DISTRICT NO. XII.

A. SHATTUCK, Agent. MISS MARY A. FIELDS, Teacher.

As a whole, this school is backward, though the younger scholars are promising.

The pupils rely too much upon the teacher for assistance; they should be stimulated to greater independence.

For further particulars, see statistical table.

STATISTICAL TABLE.

	Summer Term.							Winter Term.								
No of district.	Length of school in weeks.	Wages of Teachers per month, including board.	Whole number of scholars.	Average attendance.	Instances of tardiness.	Number of scholars not absent half a day.	Number of visits by citizens.	Number of district.	Length of school in weeks.	Wages of teachers per month including board.	Whole number of scholars.	Average attendance.	Instances of tardiness.	Number of scholars not absent half a day.	Number of visits by citizens.	Amount of money for the year.
1....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	12	$24	9	7	26	1	0	$81
2....	8	$20	12	11	24	8	7	2	8	20	12	11	63	8	6	79
3....	9	24	23	20	41	7	25	3	9	24	25	23	32	10	0	213
4....	11	*12	22	18	..	..	22	†4	3	..	28	24	92	10	27	155
5....	16	20	9	7	14	0	33	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	80
6....	10	26	25	22	14	6	10	6	7½	30	25	22	8	7	8	77
7....	10	*12	23	18	28	4	27	7	17	*13	26	20	95	2	33	95
8....	8	21	6	5	15	5	10	8	10	22	10	8	60	2	24	88
9....	12	20	29	24	54	1	21	9	14	20	39	23	54	3	13	136
10....	9	20	11	8	23	1	0	10	9	26	..	16	..	..	..	36
11....	9	20	10	9	..	1	2	11	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	65
12....	9	22	15	13	33	3	26	12	9	22	16	14	57	0	19	50

* Not including board. † Reported at the end of eight weeks.

Warren's series of geographies has been introduced into the schools. The change was not compulsory, but it is desirable that those pursuing the study of geography should be provided with these text-books soon.

While there is in our schools no more important study than grammar, to say the least, it appears to receive much less attention than is due to it. Scholars, of course, form no proper estimate of its value, and teachers are often not sufficiently in earnest to impress this upon them. Those interested in the schools should see that more time and labor are devoted to it.

Our schools show a great deficiency in reading. Many of those in the higher classes do not read fluently, and there is lack of proper emphasis and expression. This, in my judgment in owing largely to the fact that they have passed up from the lower classes too rapidly, and have discarded the books of the lower grades before they had mastered the words and thoughts contained in them. This desire to enter classes for which the reis not proper preparation, is not a laudable ambition, and it should be repressed. I cannot urge this too strongly.

There is great need of punctuality and regularity in attendance.

It also appears to me that, if the greater portion of the labor usually spent in preparation for the examination, were equitably distributed through the term, the sehools would thereby be benefitted. The scholars should know that their acquisitions are made for other purposes than mere show at the examination.

Respectfully submitted.

C. L. HUBBARD,
School Committee.

WILLIAM H. FISK,

PUBLISHER, BOOKSELLER,

Stationer, Book Binder,

PRINTER, FRAME-GILDER,

PAPER-BOX MANUFACTURER,

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Manchester, N. H., March, 1870.

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